

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OGC-88-53356

2 December 1988

Office of General Counsel

Ms. Patricia Mack Bryan
Associate Counsel to the President
Room 112
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: CIA Review of Nixon Presidential Materials

Dear Ms. Bryan:

In response to the 15 November 1988 letter from Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr. to Russell J. Bruemmer, General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), requesting that CIA participate in the review of 500,000 pages of President Nixon's White House documents, CIA designated two representatives who conducted a review on 21, 22 and 23 November 1988. The review was undertaken with the supervision of [redacted] Chief of the Classification Review Branch, CIA Office of Information Technology. Enclosed is a memorandum prepared by [redacted] which describes the records reviewed and summarizes the findings of the CIA representatives. As you can see from the memorandum, the CIA representatives found no information which, in their estimation, could require the invocation of Executive Privilege. The reviewers did discover, as the memorandum indicates, several document descriptions of withheld CIA material which contain sensitive information. The issue of how to handle these document descriptions will be addressed in a separate memorandum and may be raised directly with the National Archives and Records Administration. In any event, CIA's concern about the document descriptions does not interfere with the release of the Nixon Presidential Materials scheduled for 9 December 1988.

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If you have any questions or I can be of further assistance please call me at [redacted]

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Very truly yours,

[redacted]

Assistant General Counsel

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Enclosure

29 November 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CIA Review of Nixon Presidential Materials

1. On 21, 22, and 23 November 1988, two CIA representatives, [redacted] conducted a review of the Nixon Presidential Materials located at the National Archives Facility, 845 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, Virginia. This review was conducted in response to a White House request to several government agencies to examine this collection for the withdrawal of any records because of Executive Privilege or for National Security considerations. The release of approximately 500,000 pages of this material to the public is scheduled for 9 December 1988.

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2. The selection of material reviewed was based on a detailed description provided to this office of seven primary subject categories and six file groups from Staff Member and Office Files. Our review included all material in those categories that could reasonably be assumed to contain CIA equities. We also examined Document Withdrawal Records for CIA material withheld from this collection for possible classified, or classifiable information.

3. As a result the following determinations were made:

We requested, and NARA agreed to, the withdrawal of one document describing a number of economic studies that were listed by title and by the analyst responsible for each study. The document was located in Box 4, File WHCF: [redacted]. The document, which is not classified, would be exempt in accordance with Executive Order 12356, Sec. 1.3(a)(5), and the Freedom of Information Act U.S.C. §552(b)(3).

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4. Specifically, a total of 41 boxes, or approximately 13 cubic feet of documents, were examined as follows:

a. Federal Government Organizations

FG-3, Transition to Incoming Administration, Box 53
FG-5, The Executive Branch, Box 54

FG-6-2, Central Intelligence Agency, Box 57 (This box contains 23 files, most of which contain only Document Withdrawal Records. There is no classified or classifiable material in files containing records).

b. National Security Council

FG-6-6, Boxes 1,2,3,4,5,6. Documents in this collection pertain to NSC deliberations, correspondence, recommendations for staff positions, and miscellaneous matters. No CIA equities were found.

c. Trips

TR 25, Box 28 (Asia, Romania), Box 44 (Europe, Italy, Yugoslavia), Boxes 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 (Peoples Republic of China), Boxes 80, 81, 82 (Austria, USSR, Iran, Poland), Box 96 (USSR), Box 99 (Austria, Mid-East, Portugal). The material in these boxes consists primarily of correspondence with constituents, travel schedules, and diplomatic exchanges.

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6. We wish to note that the staff of the Nixon Presidential Materials project at the National Archives had conducted a very careful and conscientious review of the documents in this collection. We have no hesitation to conclude that all sensitive CIA information has been removed. We wish to express appreciation for the cooperation and courtesies shown by the staff in our review.

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Chief, Classification Review Branch
Information Services Division
Management Services Group
Office of Information Technology